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*The*  
**250th Anniversary**  
*of*  
**Newtown, Connecticut**









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**THE 250th ANNIVERSARY  
of  
NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT  
1705 - 1955**

*Edited by*  
**JAMES A. TOBEY  
PAUL S. SMITH  
HARRY KING TOOTLE**

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## PREFACE

Records of the past always are valuable, not only because they often invoke pleasing memories, but also because they help to establish traditions and frequently serve as guides to future generations.

Newtown's 250th anniversary celebration on August 6th, 1955 has come and gone, but the remembrance of the many interesting, colorful, and highly successful events of that day will linger on for many years in the minds of all who were present on that historic occasion.

In order to provide a permanent record of the observance in 1955, this booklet has been prepared as a final contribution of the committee in charge. Sufficient funds remained after all other expenses had been paid to take care of the costs of printing and distribution.

Many of the citizens of Newtown were generous in their support of the 250th anniversary, not only in donations of money, but also in most valuable contributions of time, talent, and action. At the very least, they deserve this illustrated booklet in return.

It is the hope of the Editorial Committee that this brochure will prove of interest and value to everyone, both now and in the future.

James A. Tobey  
Paul S. Smith  
Harry King Tootle

Newtown, Conn.  
September 15, 1955



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## PROCLAMATION

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Whereas: Lands now occupied by the Town of Newtown in the State of Connecticut were acquired originally from the Pootatuck tribe of Indians on August 5, 1705;

And Whereas: The Town of Newtown has prospered and thrived during the past two and a half centuries, and its citizens have enjoyed the blessings of liberty, freedom, and justice under the American system of government;

Therefore Be It Resolved: That the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Newtown, in recognition of our heritage, hereby designates Saturday, August 6, 1955 as a day of commemoration and celebration of the 250th anniversary of the town, and hereby invites all citizens to participate in the various festivities arranged in observance of this historic occasion.

Given under our hands and seal this first day of July in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and fifty-five.

The Board of Selectmen,  
Anthony Amaral  
Edward E. Knapp







## I. THE REASON FOR THE CELEBRATION

The pleasant lands now comprising the Town of Newtown in the County of Fairfield and the State of Connecticut were purchased originally from the Indians in 1705. The transaction took place on the banks of the Housatonic, or Great River, on July 25, a date which became August 5 when the calendar was reformed in 1750.

This event is generally regarded, possibly with some historic license, as the founding of Newtown. It was celebrated as such for the first time on August 5, 1905, and it was commemorated once again on August 6, 1955. It will probably be observed at fifty year intervals as long as Newtown endures. For the benefit of future generations, and as a matter of interest to all who participated in the 1955 celebration, this booklet is published as a complete and permanent record of Newtown's 250th anniversary.

The day, Saturday, August 6, 1955, was sunny and clear, but extremely hot. Despite the torrid weather, the observance was a most successful culmination to months of planning and preparation by able and hard-working committees. "In point of historical significance and pure enjoyment," said an editorial in the Newtown Bee the following week, "it was a day of real satisfaction. Newtown did itself proud in the observance of its 250th anniversary, and everyone in town has been saying so ever since."

The festivities began in the morning with a big parade along gaily decorated streets, the largest and most colorful event of its kind in the history of the town. In the early afternoon the new A. Fenn Dickinson Memorial Park was dedicated by the Governor of Connecticut, the Honorable Abraham Ribicoff. Then followed Little League baseball games at Taylor Field. In the evening there was a colorful block dance on the plaza at the Shopping Center.

Preceding the actual commemoration exercises on August 6th were several other noteworthy events. On Saturday, July 23rd, for example, the Sandy Hook Fife, Drum and Bugle Corps held its first home meet on the Newtown High School grounds, with thirty corps participating in junior and senior contests. Following the afternoon session a parade of seventeen junior and one senior corps took place. While this affair was not officially a part of the 250th anniversary celebration, it was a fitting prelude to it.

A definite part of the celebration, however, was a tour of six of Newtown's historic houses, held on Saturday, July 30th, another perfect but warm day. On Thursday evening, August 4th the Board of Managers of the Edmond Town Hall offered a free motion picture in the Theatre as its contribution to



the anniversary, and also in recognition of the 25th anniversary of the Town Hall itself.

Prior to the tour of homes an interesting historical exhibit had been installed in the Cyrenius H. Booth Library, and remained on display there until September. Other notable events in connection with the 250th anniversary included an essay contest for junior and senior high school students, the preparation and distribution of an attractive poster, the publication of a Special Supplement to the Newtown Bee on August 5th, and the issuance by the local League of Women Voters of an interesting and comprehensive book of 107 pages on Newtown, the first copies of which were distributed on August 6th.

## What Happened in 1705

At the beginning of the eighteenth century Connecticut already had been a thriving English colony for about 70 years. In 1705 the white population was about 50,000, far in excess of the few thousand Indians. As early as 1635 settlements had been established at Wethersfield, Windsor, and Hartford, and numerous towns came into being along the shores of Long Island Sound. Until 1662 New Haven had been a separate colony, but in that year, when a royal charter was granted to the colony, New Haven was merged with Connecticut. Long before Newtown was organized, communities existed nearby at Stratford (1639), Derby (1651), Woodbury (1673), and Danbury (1685).

The area which is now Newtown was more or less of a wilderness in 1705, inhabited only by a small and peaceful tribe of Indians, the Pohtatucks or Pootatucks, whose village was situated at the junction of the Housatonic and Pootatuck rivers. Before 1705 the Colonial Government had, however, granted plots of land to seven settlers in this general territory, and a number of plantations had been established. The entire section was, moreover, well known to the colonists, since it was on the main routes of travel between the various settlements.

To Quanneapague, as this area was called by the Indians, came three enterprising gentlemen in 1705. They were Captain Samuel Hawley and William Junos, yeoman, of Stratford and Justus Bush, mariner, of New York. They persuaded the sachems of the Pohtatucks to sell them some land, and came away with a deed to a tract some eight miles long by six miles wide, duly signed with the marks of three chiefs named Mauquash, Massumpas, and Nunnawalk.

For this considerable piece of property the Indians received in payment: four guns, four broadcloth coats, four blankitts, four ruffelly coats, four collars, ten shirts, ten pairs of stockings, forty pounds of lead, ten pounds of powder, and forty knives. The original deed seems to be lost, but a copy of it appears in the first volume of the Newtown Land Records.

Since no one but the General Court of Connecticut, or those officially delegated by it, had the authority to acquire Indian lands, this transaction in



1705 was illegal. In 1706 the General Court voted to prosecute the three land speculators. Junos promptly offered to surrender his holdings, and the other two made restitution, so that the prosecution was dropped. Junos and Bush then sold their rights to Hawley and others. By 1708 the matter had been regularized and settled, and a charter was granted to the town upon the petition of 36 settlers, who were allowed a choice of names between Preston and Newtown, and chose the latter.

Our Newtown was not, however, the first of that name in Connecticut. Colonists from the Massachusetts towns of Dorchester and Boston who came to Hartford in 1635 at first called their community "New Town". In 1637 this name was given up in favor of Hartford, so-called after Hertford in England.

In 1710 twenty-two individuals from Stratford who held rights in the Newtown lands drew lots for parcels of 20 acres each, a method of land distribution then known as a "pitch". In 1711 Newtown was incorporated as a town, and is officially listed by the State as the 45th community to be established in Connecticut.

This is, of course, a rather sketchy account of what happened in the early part of the eighteenth century. More complete details of the history of the town are given in the report of the Bicentennial, published in 1906; in Ezra Levan Johnson's History of Newtown, published in 1918; and in the League of Women Voters' book on Newtown, issued in 1955.

## The Bicentennial in 1905

At a meeting of the Men's Literary and Social Club of Newtown in the Fall of 1904, one of the members, Ezra Levan Johnson, suggested that Newtown should mark the 200th anniversary of its founding with appropriate ceremonies. This club of 20 members, incidentally, was organized in 1894 and in 1955 is still in existence.

As a result of Mr. Johnson's suggestion, a public meeting was held in January, 1905, at the Newtown Academy on Church Hill Road, and the Bicentennial was launched. A General Committee of 50 persons was appointed, with a small Executive Committee consisting of the following:

Ezra Levan Johnson, *Chairman*

Michael J. Houlihan, *Secretary and Treasurer*

James H. George

Patrick H. McCarthy

Otis W. Barker

Robert H. Beers

Allison P. Smith

Eight other committees, on Finance, Entertainment, Historical, Invitations, Music, Parade, Colonial Ball, and Fireworks, with a total of about 60 members, were also appointed. These committees met on the average of once a week up to the time of the observance on Saturday, August 5, 1905.



The Bicentennial festivities began with a Colonial Ball in the Town Hall on Friday evening, with an attendance of about 700, including Governor Henry Roberts of Connecticut. On Saturday morning, a fair and pleasant day, there was a big parade led by the Chief Marshal, Charles G. Peck, on horseback. The Governor rode in the parade in an open carriage, and then reviewed it at the Fair Grounds, where Hawley School now stands. When the parade had ended the exercises opened with a prayer by the Reverend Patrick Fox of St. Rose Church, and then came three addresses, one a rather lengthy historical essay by Mr. Johnson. After an intermission for luncheon, a poem was read, and then eight more speeches were delivered, including one by the Governor. It was reported that a "vast throng" attended these exercises, and also visited the historical exhibits which were on view in the main building of the Fair Grounds.

In the evening there was a band concert by the Woodbury Band, which had also led the morning parade, and this was interspersed with a vivid display of fireworks. The commemoration continued on Sunday with special services at the Congregational Church and Trinity Episcopal Church, of which the Reverend Otis W. Barker and the Reverend James H. George were, respectively, the pastors.

An interesting and comprehensive account of the preparations for this Bicentennial and of the exercises themselves is given in a book of 177 pages, edited by Rev. James Hardin George, Ezra Levan Johnson, and Allison P. Smith, and published in 1906. Mr. Johnson was the grandfather of Frank L. Johnson, who served as treasurer of the 1955 committee, while Mr. Smith was the uncle of Paul S. Smith, present editor of the Newtown Bee, and one of the editors of this 1955 booklet.



## II. PREPARATIONS FOR THE CELEBRATION

With the Bicentennial of 1905 as a precedent, town officials decided that the 250th anniversary of Newtown ought to be suitably recognized. In March of 1955 First Selectman A. Fenn Dickinson appointed a small committee to consider the matter. In addition to Mr. Dickinson, members of this original committee included: Nelson G. Curtis, Herman R. Geiger, Dr. William F. Green, Miles Harris, Mrs. Jerome P. Jackson, Ralph L. Knibloe, Mrs. William M. McKenzie, and Bertram A. Stroock. Early in May Colonel James A. Tobey and Frank L. Johnson were added to the committee.

Prior to the middle of May this group held several meetings to discuss the proposition, but the only action taken was to set the date of the commemoration on August 6th. On May 16 the committee elected Colonel James A. Tobey, U. S. Army Retired, as chairman, Frank L. Johnson as treasurer, and Mrs. Bertram A. Stroock as secretary. First Selectman Dickinson was appointed as parade marshal.

At this meeting Mr. Dickinson reported that Governor Ribicoff had promised to be present at the anniversary celebration, and he outlined various plans whereby he, personally, proposed to organize the biggest parade in Newtown's history, raise the necessary funds, and undertake numerous other activities. The next morning occurred the unfortunate accident in which Mr. Dickinson instantly lost his life.

At the next meeting of the Executive Committee on May 31, the first order of business was the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the tragic death of First Selectman A. Fenn Dickinson on May 17, 1955 has deprived the Town of Newtown of an outstanding citizen, and this committee of an ardent and devoted member, whose interests and activities were so ably directed toward the successful observance of the 250th anniversary of his native community;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the sincere condolences and sympathy of the 250th anniversary committee of the Town of Newtown be transmitted to the family of the late A. Fenn Dickinson, and be spread upon the minutes of this committee.

At this time the resignations of Mrs. Jerome P. Jackson and Ralph L. Knibloe from the Executive Committee, because of pressure of other important affairs, were received and accepted. Their places were taken by Mrs. A. Fenn



Dickinson and Harry King Tootle. This committee as finally constituted was as follows:

*The Executive Committee*

Col. James A. Tobey, Chairman

Frank L. Johnson, Treasurer

Mrs. Bertram A. Stroock, Secretary

Nelson G. Curtis

Miles Harris

Mrs. A. Fenn Dickinson

Mrs. William M. McKenzie

Herman R. Geiger

Bertram A. Stroock

Dr. William F. Green

Harry King Tootle

It was then necessary to begin at the beginning. Fortunately for the success of the venture, the newly elected chairman had had wide experience as an administrator, both in military and civil life, and was also an expert in public relations. In the short space of about two months, eight subcommittees were organized and duties were assigned to them, a general committee was appointed, funds were raised, publicity obtained, an attractive poster issued, and efficient arrangements made for the ceremonies. In many ways it was a remarkable achievement, due to the harmonious, highly capable, and well-coordinated activities of the several committees. From May 31st to August 5th the executive Committee and the chairmen of the subcommittees met in the Town Hall every week, with practically full attendance. Complete minutes of all meetings were kept by the secretary.\*

*The Subcommittees*

Chairmen of the eight subcommittees were as follows:

Dance	Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Carruth
Decorations	Arthur H. Christie
Exhibits	Lincoln B. Mitchell
Finance	Nelson G. Curtis
Parade	James Brunot
	Albert H. Nichols
Park	Richard S. Winship
Publicity	Harry King Tootle
School Essay	M. Fridolf Jacobson

The members of each of these subcommittees are listed in the later sections in this booklet, in which their respective activities are described.

\* After the anniversary celebration the Executive Committee unanimously passed a resolution that, "a vote of appreciation be given Colonel James A. Tobey for his excellent and successful services in behalf of the 250th anniversary of the founding of Newtown", and directed that it be published in this book.



## *The Honorary Committee of One Hundred*

One of the first actions of the Chairman and the Executive Committee was to select and appoint an Honorary Committee of One Hundred. This committee was comprised of town and borough officials who were heads of departments or boards; the presidents of all active civic organizations; representative members of original Newtown families; professional persons; and other prominent citizens, such as state officials, former selectmen, etc.

It is interesting to note that one member of this 1955 committee, Charles G. Morris, was also a member of the Bicentennial Committee of 1905. A number of others were sons, daughters, or grandsons and granddaughters of members of the Bicentennial Committee.

Members of this Honorary Committee of One Hundred, which actually includes 114 names, were as follows:

Mrs. Julia D. Aiken	Mrs. Stephen Danuszar
Anthony Amaral	Nelson B. Denny
John Angel	Mrs. A. Fenn Dickinson*
Willis Arndt	Sydney Dobbs
Judge John N. Boyle	H. Dunleavy
Mrs. Eleanor S. Briscoe	Dr. J. Benton Egee
James Brunot	Robert D. Fairchild
Mrs. James Brunot	Mrs. Norman Fedde
Mrs. Marguerite B. Budd	Charles Ferris, Sr.
Mrs. Stephen E. Budd	James B. Forbes
Richard F. Burdett	Raymond B. Fosdick
Mrs. Richard F. Burdett	Vincent P. Gaffney
Roy F. Byrne	Herman R. Geiger*
Leo Carbonneau	Mrs. Richard B. Gilpin
Arthur W. Carmody	S. Curtis Glover
Robert M. Carruth	Charles M. Goodsell
Paul R. Cashman	Dr. William F. Green*
Charles F. Cavanaugh	Col. C. Sidney Haight
James Cavanaugh, Jr.	Frederick Harris
Arthur H. Christie	Miles Harris*
Robert J. Clark	Otto Heise
Alvin B. Cogger	Joseph F. Hellauer
Charles S. Cole	Clinton R. Hilliker
Rev. Walter R. Conroy	James F. Hinckley
Rev. Paul A. Cullens	Judge John F. Holian
H. Gould Curtis	William A. Honan
Nelson G. Curtis*	W. W. Holcombe
Mrs. Nelson G. Curtis	Milton F. Hull
Newton M. Curtis	George A. Jackson
Herbert H. Cutler	Dr. Clifford G. Johnson
William K. Daniells	Frank L. Johnson*



Allen Northey Jones  
 George L. Kayhoe  
 Jack E. Kessinger  
 Mrs. George Kingman, Jr.  
 Edward E. Knapp  
 Dr. George B. Kyle  
 Wilton Lackaye  
 John C. Leavy  
 Carl A. LeGrow  
 Mrs. Leroy J. Lovejoy  
 Mary R. Lucas  
 Milton A. Mandelson  
 Rev. Richard S. Martin  
 Henry L. McCarthy  
 John T. McCarthy, Sr.  
 Mrs. W. M. McKenzie\*  
 Lincoln B. Mitchell  
 Wallace N. Mitchell  
 Ernest F. Morgan  
 Charles G. Morris  
 William D. Murphy  
 Alfred W. Nelson  
 Albert H. Nichols  
 Frederick Parr  
 Herman W. Parker  
 Rev. Walter Pickering

Rev. Gordon D. Pierce  
 Edward S. Pitzschler  
 Edmund C. Platt  
 Albert Rasmussen  
 Judge M. Fredric Rees  
 Robert F. Reiner  
 Dr. Joseph Reiss  
 Judge Walter A. Reynolds  
 Henry Roger  
 Jack H. Rosenthal  
 Robert E. Ryan  
 Mortimer B. Smith  
 Paul S. Smith  
 Dr. Russell F. Strasburger  
 George M. Stuart  
 Bertram A. Stroock\*  
 Mrs. Bertram A. Stroock\*  
 Joseph H. A. Symonds  
 Arthur Terry  
 Col. James A. Tobey\*  
 Harry King Tootle\*  
 Roger Treat  
 Paul D. Webb  
 Mrs. Edward Wight  
 Richard S. Winship  
 H. Hawley Warner

\* Member of Executive Committee.

## The Pioneers of Newtown

Like most New England towns, Newtown has many residents who are descendants of the earliest settlers. Other families have been represented in the town for a century or more, sometimes through the early immigrants who have contributed so much to the American way of life.

At the suggestion of several interested citizens, an attempt was made to compile a list of adults now living in Newtown who are of at least the fourth generation on either the paternal or maternal side. This project was turned over to Colonel C. S. Haight of Main Street, who after considerable difficulty was able to prepare a list of about 100 names, with appropriate genealogical data on each family.

This list, which is undoubtedly incomplete in a population of 7500 in 1955, was published in several issues of the Newtown Bee. Because of lack of space, and the need for additional information, the list is not given here, but may be issued in supplementary form at some future date.



## The School Essay Contest

At the invitation of the Superintendent of Schools, Carl A. LeGrow, and the Principal of the Newtown High School, James F. Hinckley, the Chairman of the 250th anniversary committee addressed assemblies of the Senior and Junior High Schools on June 7, 1955. In these two speeches he recounted the early history of Newtown, outlined plans for the anniversary celebration in August, and announced a prize for the best essay by a student on the subject, "Newtown, Past and Future". The essays were not to exceed 1500 words in length and were to be submitted not later than July 15th, several weeks after the schools had closed.

Although these addresses seemed to arouse considerable interest among the several hundred pupils present, relatively few took advantage of the opportunity. The prize, a \$25 United States Bond, was awarded to Miss Faith Brown of Sandy Hook for her essay entitled, "Newtown, Its Nostalgic Past and Visionary Future". This essay was subsequently published in *The Newtown Bee* of August 26, 1955.

The committee of judges included M. Fridolf Jacobson and Mrs. Grover A. Burrows.

## The Poster and the Golden Rooster

At one of the early meetings of the Executive Committee it was suggested by Herman R. Geiger that a suitable poster be prepared by some one of the many talented artists in Newtown. Mr. Geiger approached his neighbor on Shephard Hill, Paul D. Webb, well-known cartoonist for *Esquire* and other publications. Mr. Webb in turn got in touch with the nationally recognized illustrator, Robert Hallock of Hattertown District. Between them they worked out a design from copy supplied by the Chairman, and Mr. Hallock drew a most attractive reproduction of the historic, battle-scarred rooster which has graced the steeple of the Newtown Congregational Church since early colonial days. The Executive Committee had 200 of these posters printed in two colors, and they were widely distributed throughout Newtown and neighboring communities.

The Golden Cock which embellishes the local spire and was used as an appropriate symbol for the 250th anniversary has an interesting history. The Congregational Church was established in Newtown in 1715, the first church in the settlement. A meeting house was not, however, completed for several years (1719), and the steeple was not added to it until 1761. Just when the golden rooster first appeared as a weather vane is not definitely known, but it was undoubtedly in the pre-revolutionary days of the Colony.

Legend has it that the numerous bullet holes in this famous golden weather cock were made by the French soldiers of the army of the Count De Rochambeau, whose troops camped in Newtown from June 28 to July 1, 1781, en route



from Providence, R. I. to join the forces of General George Washington at Bedford, N. Y. It is possible, however, that these bullet holes came from the rifles of British soldiers who occupied Newtown earlier in the War for Independence, or even that they were made by trigger-happy local boys.

In honor of the 250th anniversary celebration, the golden rooster was removed from the steeple at the end of July, 1955, with the aid of a tall crane furnished by a local resident, B. C. Edgerton Sr. It was given a new coat of gold leaf by Rudolph Boedefeld, a local painter, and was replaced on the spire on August 4th by steeplejack B. Haight of Milford.

A reproduction of this rooster served as the central motif of many of the special decorations prepared for the anniversary. It also adorns the book on Newtown published by the League of Women Voters, and appears on the cover of this booklet.

### **Greetings from Newtown in Wales**

At the suggestion of Roger Howson, a local resident of Welsh origin, the Chairman wrote to the authorities of Newtown, Montgomeryshire, Wales, sending greetings and requesting a suitable statement for the anniversary. This Newtown in Great Britain has about the same population as our Newtown, U. S. A., but is much more venerable. It was settled by the Normans in the 13th century on the site of an ancient Roman community.

The Chairman of the Council of Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn Urban District Council in Wales wrote under date of July 13, 1955:

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Your very welcome and interesting letter of the 6th instant reached me yesterday.

It gives me great pleasure to send you on behalf of my Council, its Officers and the Inhabitants of Newtown, hearty greetings and good wishes on the occasion of your commemoration on the 6th of next month.

I enclose an Official Guide Book of Newtown which I trust will be of interest at the celebrations on the completion of the 250th anniversary.

E. Walter Evans  
Chairman of the Council



## Greetings from the Governor of Connecticut

In response to a request from Paul S. Smith, Editor of the Newtown Bee, Governor Abraham Ribicoff sent the following statement which was published in the August 5th issue of The Bee:



As one who takes great pride in the traditions and history of his native state, I am delighted to join with the people of Newtown in celebrating your 250th anniversary.

A town is more than a geographical location and a collection of buildings and roads. It is people living together with respect for one another, and together helping solve the problems that all of us have in common.

When we think of Newtown, we think of Isaac Toucey—Governor of Connecticut, Attorney General of the United States, Secretary of the Navy—of President Hadley of Yale, of Governor Luzon B. Morris, and of Miss Mary Elizabeth Hawley, your generous Benefactress. The Cyrenius H. Booth Library, the Edmond Town Hall and the old Colonial Cemetery which she beautified and endowed have stamped her imprint on your community.

So will future generations remember A. Fenn Dickinson, your late selectman and my very dear friend. The park that will be dedicated in his honor Saturday will be a living memorial to a fine man and an able public servant.

Newtown is rich in the tradition and lore of Connecticut. It is a romantic distinction to be able to say you live in a community your forbears purchased from the Indians. The link with the hardy settlers who pioneered this state is an envious heritage indeed.

A boy who loves the woods and hills and the banks of a beautiful river such as your Housatonic must thrill to growing up in the shadows of the glorious past. It is a wonderful atmosphere in which to live and rear a family.

Apparently many people feel this way, because Newtown is one of the fastest-growing communities in Connecticut. Numerous new problems are attendant on this growth. Similar problems are being experienced by sister communities across the country wherever there is a trend from urban to country living. The sense of history and pride in tradition, which the people of Newtown have, will help adjust to the new circumstances and perpetuate those traditions.

Abraham Ribicoff



### III. THE TOUR OF HISTORIC HOUSES

At the invitation of the 250th anniversary committee the owners of six of Newtown's most interesting and historic houses opened their homes to public inspection from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, July 30th. It was the first time in the long history of Newtown that such a tour had been arranged.

In order to facilitate the visits, the committee in charge had had printed a flyer showing a map of the area and giving a brief description of the principal features of each of the houses. Tickets for the tour were available at the Cyrenius H. Booth Library, a donation of \$1.50 being received from each visitor. Mrs. Milton A. Mandelson and Mrs. Ralph L. Knibloe were in charge here.

The day was a perfect one, sunny and warm, and the tour was even more successful than had been anticipated. A total of 235 persons visited the six houses. The majority came from Newtown, but there were many from other communities, and guests were registered from as far away as San Francisco, California.

#### The Six Houses

Each of the houses was designated by the official poster, with a specially printed caption. First on the list was the residence of Second Selectman and Mrs. Anthony Amaral, known as the Stilson House, on Country Club Road at the corner of Elm Drive. This home is an early 18th century salt box, with a fine hearth, stone stairs to the cellar, a low ceiling, and a large summer beam in the "keeping room". Hostesses assigned here by Mrs. Milton A. Mandelson of the committee included: Mrs. Renwick Brown, Mrs. Paul A. Cullens, Mrs. Bertram A. Stroock, Mrs. G. C. Richardson, Mrs. Ervin Stickles, Jr., and Mrs. Joseph Low.

All of the other five houses were on Main Street, from Borough Lane to the Town Hall. The second was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Karl Knaur, the former Allison P. Smith House, on South Main Street at Borough Lane. Built before 1800, this house is a two-story, central chimney type. It contained many valuable antiques. Hostesses were: Mrs. Walter Reynolds, Mrs. Ross Fife, Mrs. C. R. Spaulding, Mrs. Harry Pease, and Mrs. William Cole.

Next came "Thankful House" on the east side of Main Street just beyond Lovell's Corner, now the residence of Mrs. Frederick F. Johnson. This house was constructed between 1750 and 1800, a central chimney, two-story type, and is furnished with many family heirlooms and outstanding examples of



early furniture and paintings. Behind it is a most attractive garden. Hostesses here were: Mrs. James N. Greene, Miss Gertrude Hutchinson, Mrs. William Swanberg, and Mrs. Timothy Laughlin.

The fourth home on display was the Caleb Baldwin House, now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Bounty. It was built in 1819 by a man who served for many years as Newtown's town clerk, and is located two doors south of Trinity Episcopal Church on the east side of Main Street. Here again is a two-story home, with beautiful grounds. Hostesses were: Mrs. Robert Muller, Mrs. Robert Stokes, Mrs. Frederick Herring, Mrs. Robert Van Patten Steiger, and Mrs. Albert Clear.

Diagonally opposite the Town Hall on Main Street is the Victorian steamboat bracketed home of Dr. and Mrs. John P. Miller, which was shown as an example of a later type of architecture. It was built about 1860-65, and is appropriately furnished in the Victorian manner. Hostesses here were: Mrs. William H. Walsh, Jr., Miss Sally McNeil, Mrs. Nathaniel Wagner, Mrs. T. D. Robinson, Mrs. John G. Herlihy, and Mrs. H. P. Splain.

The sixth and last house on the tour was the old David Beers House, the first house on Main Street south of the Newtown Savings Bank, which, incidentally, observed its 100th anniversary in 1955. The Beers house was erected in 1787, and is now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Titcomb. Here, refreshments were served in an old store at the rear of the property under the direction of a refreshment committee headed by Mrs. Russell F. Strasburger and Mrs. William Wilson, assisted by the Misses Susan Desmond, Joan Mann, Caryl Stratton, and Mary Peterson. Hostesses here were: Mrs. William F. Green, Mrs. Hastings Morse, Mrs. Warren Earll, and Mrs. James Fluharty.

In addition to these six homes, shown as typical examples of gracious New England living, the Newtown Congregational Church was also open to visitors, and a historical exhibit was on display at the Cyrenius H. Booth Library. The Congregational Church was built originally in 1719, and was remodelled in 1808. The Library was erected in 1932, one of the many benefactions of the late Miss Mary Elizabeth Hawley.

## **The Committee**

The subcommittee on Exhibits, which arranged the tour of historic houses and installed the historic exhibits in the Library, was comprised of the following members:

Lincoln B. Mitchell, Chairman  
Mrs. William F. Green  
George A. Jackson  
Jerome P. Jackson  
Mrs. Milton A. Mandelson  
Mrs. Sarah B. Mitchell  
Henry Schnakenberg



## IV. THE HISTORICAL EXHIBITS

An anniversary celebration naturally arouses great interest in things of the past. An extensive historical exhibit was, therefore, arranged by the subcommittee on exhibits and installed at the end of July in the Cyrenius H. Booth Library on Main Street. It remained on display until school opened early in September.

This interesting exhibit included many items loaned by towns people and also the permanent historical exhibit owned by the Library, the life-long collection of Dr. Charles Howard Peck (1870-1927), one of Newtown's most prominent residents. Dr. Peck began actively to collect antiquities before the turn of the century, and his love of the countryside, its fine homes and their settings, are much in evidence in his accumulated material.

From a local historical point of view, perhaps the most important items in this collection are: the list of tax payers in 1773; the list of sheep owners in 1820; military orders and musters; lists of participants in the War of the Revolution and the War of 1812; old maps and surveys; deeds and business accounts of past generations; letters, petitions, and political broadsides; all of which help us to familiarize ourselves with conditions and characteristics of Newtown's interesting past.

Since Dr. Peck was careful to obtain accurate data on the local history of all the items he acquired, all are marked by him. The cases in the Library likewise contain household implements of the past, trade tools, farm utensils and equipment, wearing apparel, and many other of the unique hand-made articles of the 18th century.

Other items in the permanent collection include the ancestral furnishings of Miss Mary Elizabeth Hawley (1857-1930). On display are striking examples of Queen Anne, Chippendale, Hepplewhite, Sheraton, Empire, and Victorian pieces, a progression in the changing styles which ideally depicts the purchases of a wealthy family from generation to generation.

The loan exhibit for the anniversary celebration was assembled to fit in with the permanent collection. Among its features were local Indian artifacts of great rarity; examples of old needlework, paintings, water colors, paintings on velvet; maps, deeds, and military items; chairs made in Newtown in ancient times; clocks manufactured by Ebenezer Smith; furniture made and used here before 1850; signs, fixtures, and works from former stores, hotels, and business places; early photographs, cards, and prints of Newtown and its changing times.



## Persons Who Contributed to the Loan Exhibition

Archeological Society of Connecticut State—  
Robert Newbauer, Danbury Chapter

Preston Beers

Anna M. Betts

Mrs. Henry Blackman

Dorothy Botsford

Mrs. Henry Clark

Anna M. Griffin

Mrs. Edith Halpert

Kenneth Hammitt

H. Carleton Hubbell

George A. Jackson

Jerome P. Jackson

Frank L. Johnson

Albert S. Knapp

Robert D. Knapp

Lincoln B. Mitchell

Mrs. Sarah Mitchell

Mrs. James B. Nichols

Henry Schnakenberg

Mrs. H. G. Warner

Myra Warner

## V. THE MOTION PICTURE

As a contribution to the anniversary celebration, the Board of Managers of the Edmond Town Hall voted to present a complimentary motion picture in the Edmond Town Hall Theatre. The film, "Stars and Stripes Forever", starring Clifton Webb and Debra Paget, and based on the life of the great bandmaster, John Philip Sousa, was shown to capacity audiences at 7 and 9 p.m. on Thursday evening, August 4th.

The Town Hall was also gaily decorated with red, white, and blue bunting, as well as with a large sign proclaiming the 250th anniversary of the town. The Edmond Town Hall, built in 1930 through the generosity of Miss Hawley, was observing its own 25th anniversary at this time.

Members of the Board of Managers of the Town Hall in 1955 included:

George A. Jackson, Chairman

John J. Donahue

James B. Forbes

John R. Kelly

Betty Lou Osborne

Albert Rasmussen



## VI. THE PARADE

"Parade Sets Mood For Day-Long Celebration", proclaimed the headline in the August 12th issue of the Newtown Bee, "August 6, 1955 Is Day Long To Be Remembered By Townspeople". Most of the following narrative of this important event is, in fact, taken verbatim from the well-written report in the Bee.

Fifty years from now, Newtown's present-day youngsters will harken back to a hot, humid day in August, 1955, recalling the spectacle they saw then, the 250th anniversary parade, which ushered in the day-long series of activities that marked two and one-half centuries of the town's existence. Conceived in the grand manner and brilliantly executed, the August 6 parade will long stand as an appropriate commemoration to such a noteworthy event, a worthy successor to the town's big turnout in 1905, when Newtown celebrated its bicentennial. Altogether, it was a great show.

Beginning in the mid-forenoon last Saturday, units began to assemble in the vicinity of Edmond Town Hall, along North Main Street and Currituck Road, in preparation for the starting signal at 11 o'clock. Just as early, spectators began to gather, lining the parade route. Hawkers were everywhere selling souvenirs of the occasion. There was bustle and excitement in the air, traffic was thick. Despite the heat, a gay holiday mood prevailed.

As the scheduled hour drew near, bumper-to-bumper traffic on Main Street came to a stall, but with the least possible confusion, State Police got it going again until through traffic on Routes 6 and 25 was cut off or re-routed altogether. It took less than five minutes to clear the parade route. Only the heads and shoulders of spectators could be seen along the line of march, heads turned in a single direction toward the slight rise at the upper end of Main Street where the first units were scheduled to make their appearance.

Governor Abraham Ribicoff arrived from Hartford in his official car at precisely 11 a.m. He was received with ruffles and flourishes by the Sandy Hook Fife, Drum and Bugle Corps, drawn up on the lawn before the Town Hall, and he was greeted by a welcoming committee consisting of Colonel James A. Tobey, Mrs. A. Fenn Dickinson, State Representatives Sarah Frances Curtis and Herbert H. Cutler, Selectmen Anthony Amaral and Edward E. Knapp, and Park Commissioner Bertram A. Stroock.

A quarter of an hour later the parade was under way, headed by the Color Guard of the Connecticut State Police Department, and the Color Guard of the Connecticut Department of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The smart step and spruce appearance of these color guards set the pace for the whole show, to the final group of horsemen from the Flying W Ranch, nearly an hour later. It was



a great performance. The parade, thanks to a hard-working committee and the individual participants, had all the elements of success in its makeup; it had color, dash, good music, humor, dressiness, the high touch of seriousness, and pace. The floats were unusually good. The local and many out-of-town drum corps had snap, the fire companies, both personnel and equipment, looked their best, and marchers marched as though they meant it, with commendable disregard for the day's mounting temperature. From the outset it was apparent that this was going to be a parade to remember.

## **Drum Corps Out In Front**

The first musical unit to come down Main Street proved to be a treat for the hometown spectators, since it was the Sandy Hook Fife, Drum and Bugle Corps performing on its home ground. The group was in top competitive form and earned enthusiastic applause from the sidelines. Both high-stepping Eilene Wright, the drum majorette, and Kathy Kanouse, the diminutive twirler, took the lead like seasoned troupers.

Hardly had the marching units gone by when a motor cavalcade followed, carrying state, county and local officials. In the lead car was the state's chief executive, the Honorable Abraham Ribicoff, Governor of Connecticut, here not only to help the town celebrate its anniversary but to pay tribute to a friend during the afternoon's dedication of the town's first park to the memory of the late A. Fenn Dickinson. On the seat beside the governor was the Dickinson boy, five-year-old Happy. Accompanying the governor in the official car were Selectman Edward E. Knapp, parade marshal, and Bert Sheldon, for over 40 years instructor and judge of the American Fifers and Drummers Association.

The next car in the procession identified its occupants by its long-familiar license plate, "SLIM", used by the late selectman on the town-owned car and now transferred to his family's private sedan. Mrs. A. Fenn Dickinson, widow of the selectman, was one of the occupants, as was her daughter DeDe, and Mr. Dickinson's mother, Mrs. Harry Godfrey of Bethel. The car was driven by Warren Dayton, Mrs. Dickinson's brother. Newtown's representatives to the General Assembly, Sarah Frances Curtis and Herbert H. Cutler, and Bertram A. Stroock shared a car with the man charged with the responsibility of making the 250th anniversary celebration the success it was, its chairman, Col. James A. Tobey. Other officials following included Selectman Anthony Amaral of Newtown, Selectman Louis Shaw of Bethel, Selectman Louis Anderson of Brookfield, Town Treasurer Herman Parker, Tax Collector William Murphy, Probate Judge Walter A. Reynolds, Town Court Judge John F. Holian, Town Prosecutor Henry McCarthy, Borough Warden Russell F. Strasburger, Assessors Charles M. Goodsell, Robert Mount, Town Hall Manager Arthur J. Smith, Jr.

The Derby Hurricanes, a top-notch drum corps in blue and white uniforms, came next, looking very smart and pleasing the sideline throng with its musical performance. A Connecticut National Guard unit did a neat cadence count step



at intervals and in perfect unison, followed by the colors of the Danbury Drum and Bugle Corps and the corps itself, members of whom sang and played alternately. The car following was the official car of the Commander of the Department of Connecticut, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Marching units of the two local veterans posts and auxiliaries came next, the Charles Howard Peck, Sr. and Jr. Post 308, V.F.W. and Auxiliary, and the Raymond L. Pease Post, Post 163, American Legion and Auxiliary, The V.F.W. float was most effective, depicting as it did a graveside honor guard and firing squad with Bugler Irving Shaw sounding "Taps". The Daughters of the American Revolution and the Disabled American Veterans were represented by respective cars bearing several of their members. The St. Mary's Drum Corps of East Hartford in green and yellow uniforms marched smartly by, followed by the Southbury Training School's float, a large truck covered with greenery and peopled by persons representing Indians and early settlers out of America's past. An Indian-looking Indian stood well forward on the float with his bow drawn across the top of the cab, ready to let fling an arrow. He was obviously a Pootatuck, though not a spectator was inclined to quibble with his fancy headdress, which was that of a Sioux, a real Plains Indian war bonnet. Fairfield State Hospital was next represented, both by a float depicting the services rendered at the Newtown state institution and by the fire equipment located there.

## Second Division

Following closely upon the heels of the first division, so that a break in the line of march was barely noticeable, another crack drum corps, the Bridgeport Troopers, led the next formation, its color guard out in front. This unit is comprised of the Catholic War Veterans of Bridgeport. The Cogger Lumber Company float depicted a most familiar landmark, a replica of the Newtown Congregational Church, complete in all major details, even to the well-publicized rooster atop its spire. Paul Webb, driving a snappy Model T Ford, and dressed in appropriate gear for motoring at the time of World War I, shared applause with his car's three female occupants, all nicely done up in dusters. The familiar Bee Publishing truck, with Frank Mack's cut-out of the buzzing bee mounted behind the cab, was next, with driver and riders, Mrs. Paul S. Smith, Miss Irma Nichols and Mrs. Matthew Winkle, respectively, garbed in old-fashioned attire. Outriders for this float—runners, distributing copies of The Bee's special anniversary supplement, included Paul S. Smith, Robert Shannon and Thomas Quigg.

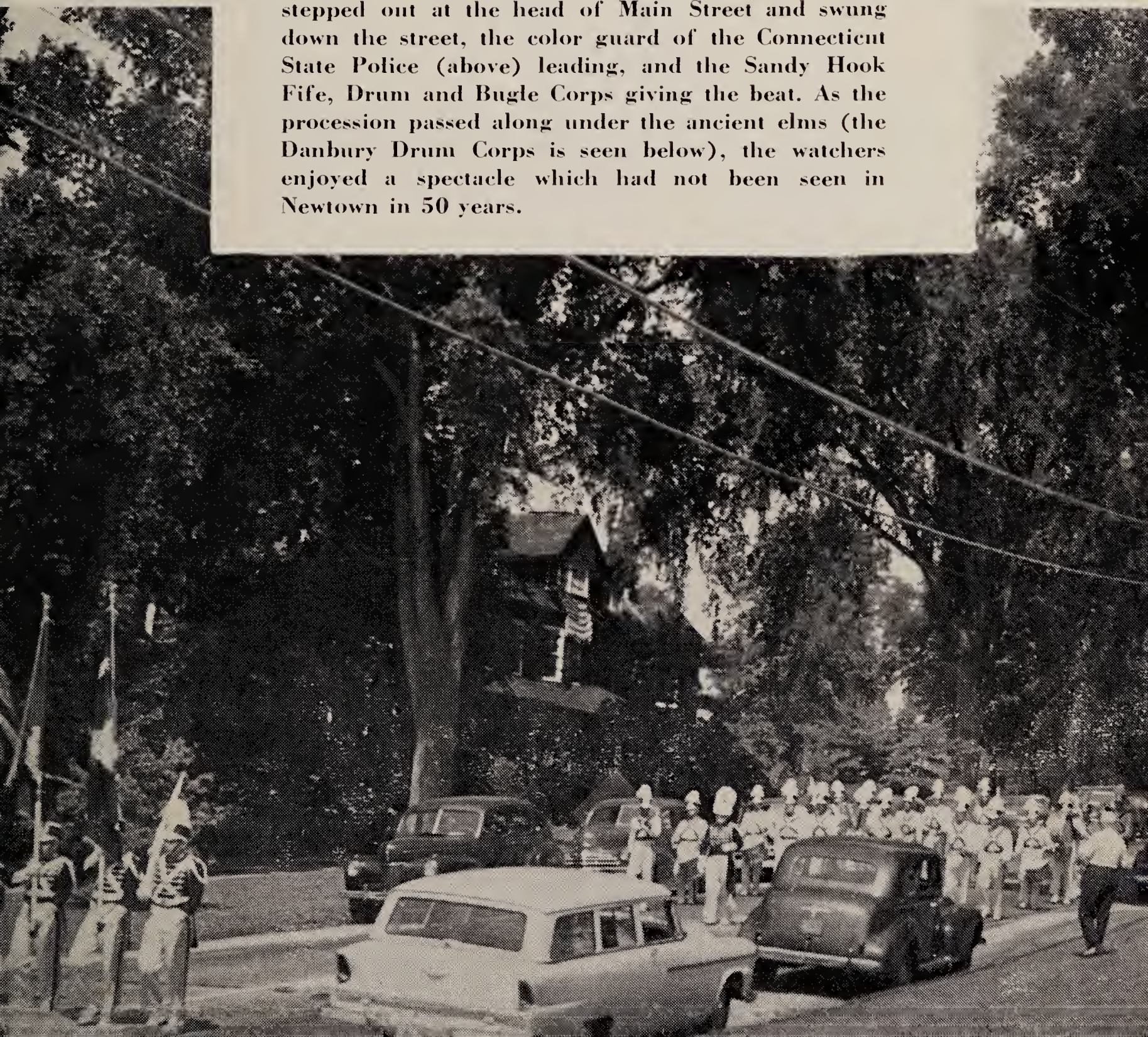
The Platt Lumber Yard of Hawleyville had a beautiful float, a top prize-winner as it turned out, in the replica of Mt. Vernon, Washington's home on the Potomac, complete in detail and accurate in scale, even to tubs of shrubbery spotted along the famous high-ceilinged veranda. Many spectators commented on the house, adults and children alike sharing the thought that rarely had they

(continued on page 33)





At 11 o'clock on Saturday morning, August 6, 1955, the marchers in Newtown's 250th Anniversary Parade stepped out at the head of Main Street and swung down the street, the color guard of the Connecticut State Police (above) leading, and the Sandy Hook Fife, Drum and Bugle Corps giving the beat. As the procession passed along under the ancient elms (the Danbury Drum Corps is seen below), the watchers enjoyed a spectacle which had not been seen in Newtown in 50 years.







The parade passed along Main Street to the Fairfield State Hospital entrance, returning north on Queen Street to Glover Avenue where Governor Ribicoff and town dignitaries reviewed the units (top) and the Sandy Hook Drum Corps stood at attention (middle). At bottom are Donald Ferris and his yoke of oxen, and Dr. John P. Miller, Jr.'s White Steamer.



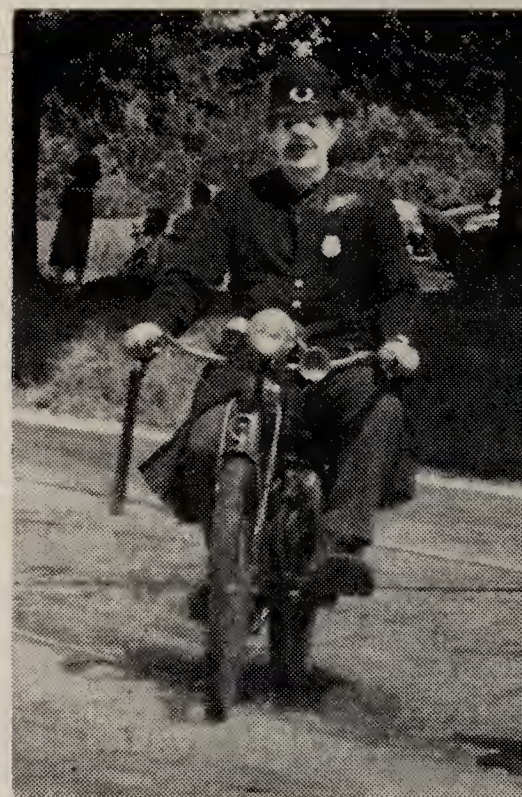




The firemen of the Newtown Hook and Ladder Company, led by Chief Lee W. Glover and Fire Marshal Albert H. Nichols drew their ancient apparatus (top). The winning float was Platt Lumber Yard's model of Mount Vernon (center). At bottom, Paul Webb's Model T Ford and William Ferris and William, Jr. with their young oxen.







The Newtown Lions Club's float dramatized the sale of the land of Newtown by the Indians (top). The girls of Frederika House and "Keystone Kop" (center) were pleasing parade features. Thomas Quigg handed out copies of the anniversary supplement to The Newtown Bee (bottom left). Those responsible for the supplement, Col James A. Tobey, Editor Paul Smith and H. K. Tootle, are seen at bottom right.







Town Players turned back the clock with their “medicine show”, driven by Charles Ferris, Jr. with Mrs. Charles Hamburg as passenger (top). Models of historic Newtown buildings also had their place in the day’s activities, the Congregational Church with its golden rooster on the steeple in the parade, and the Middle District School, the town’s first schoolhouse, on the grounds of Mrs. Albert W. Peck’s Main Street home, the site where the school served generations of Newtown children.



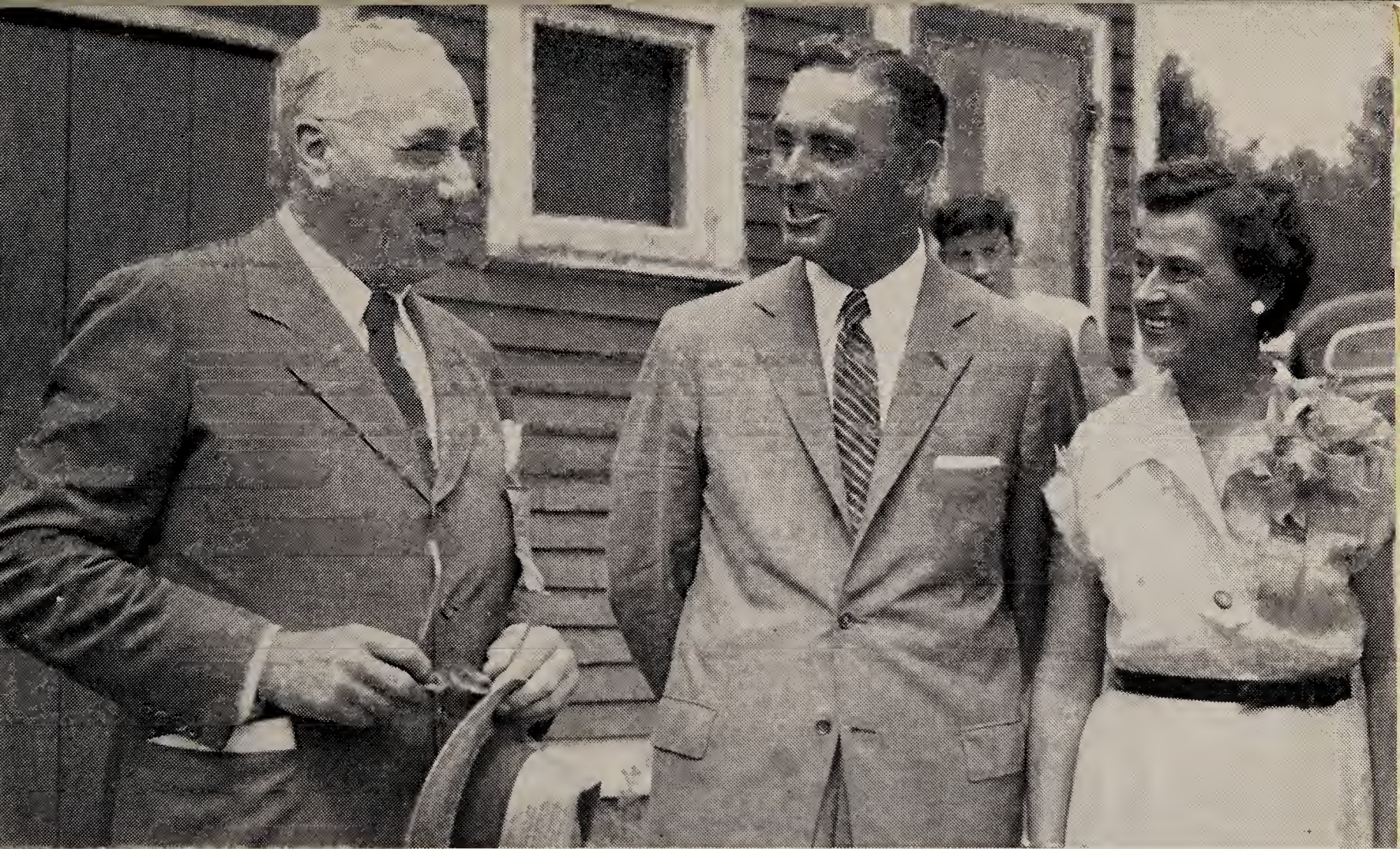




The dedication of the town's park to the memory of the late A. Fenn Dickinson, first selectman, was the afternoon's highlight. The memorial plaque and honor guard of Post 308, Veterans of Foreign Wars, is seen above. During the ceremony at the park, State Representative Sarah Frances Curtis presented the first prize for the anniversary essay contest to Faith Brown (right). A double-header played by the town's Little League baseball teams at Taylor Field (below) followed the dedication ceremony.







Three leading figures in the park dedication are seen in the photograph above. At center is Governor Abraham Ribicoff, who gave the dedicatory address; at right, Mrs. A. Fenn Dickinson, and at left, Bertram A. Stroock, who established the fund which enabled the town to purchase the park early in 1955.

The final event of the anniversary celebration was a block dance on the paved plaza at the Queen Street shopping center. Townspeople turned out in numbers to dance to the music of a dance band and hillbilly troupe, and to enjoy the singing of Newtown's Ginger Northrop (below).

As August 6, 1955 drew to a close, the people of Newtown had the satisfaction of a full day which recalled the town's 250-year-old heritage. Everywhere there was appreciation of the vast amount of planning and hard work done in preparation for the event. These activities had made August 6th a day for history.







These are the people who planned and directed Newtown's 250th Anniversary celebration—the members of the Anniversary Executive Committee: seated, left to right, Nelson G. Curtis, finance; Mrs. Bertram A. Stroock, secretary; Col James A. Tobey, chairman; Miles Harr's, park; Bertram A. Stroock. Standing, Lincoln B. Mitchell, exhibits; Robert M. Carruth, dance; Dr. William F. Green; M. Fridolf Jacobson, school essay contest; James Brunot, parade; Herman R. Geiger; Harry King Tootle, publicity; Arthur H. Christie, decorations; and Frank L. Johnson, treasurer. Committee members not in the picture are Mrs. A. Fenn Dickinson and Mrs. William M. McKenzie.

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## PHOTO CREDITS

We are indebted to the following photographers, whose work appears on the preceding eight pages: Martin M. Merriam of New Haven, oxen and old cars, Lions' float, Frederika House and "Keystone Kop"; Edmund C. Platt, 2nd, Platt Lumber Yard Float; Al Mathewson, chief photographer of the Bridgeport Post, Town Players float, and Edward Lang, photographer of The Newtown Bee, all other photographs.



seen a more perfect play or dollhouse. Bethel's well-known Grassy Plain Drum Corps came next, the blue trousers and white shirts of the marchers contrasting with the brilliant new uniforms of the Newtown Hook and Ladder Company's men, who followed. Behind the volunteers came pieces of equipment, polished to a high gloss, hand-drawn, and dating back to the company's earliest days. First there was a very small hand-pumper, then a hand-drawn hose cart, and last the old hook and ladder, looking somewhat like tiny models of what future fire-fighting equipment was to become. Appropriately, the modern hook and ladder of the present-day, an enormous piece of equipment, brought up the rear.

Waterbury's noted drum corps, the St. Joseph's Midgets came next, youngsters putting their best foot forward, followed by two truckloads of Newtown Cub Scouts, all the boys dressed in uniform. The Newtown Penny Saver float, drawn by a Jeep, represented a very ornate baby carriage with an adult "baby", Mrs. Robert M. Carruth, taking the leading role, with her own two children, Linda and Nancy, playing themselves. Newtown's 4-H group, the Cloverettes, were next represented by a float with members aboard and Mrs. Warren Wells, assistant County 4-H Club Agent, driving. The adult St. Joseph's Drum Corps of Waterbury was followed by representatives of Newtown's Little League, who were to play a double-header later in the afternoon at Taylor Field, being driven by Richard Hibbard, manager of one of the teams.

### Surrey Takes Spotlight

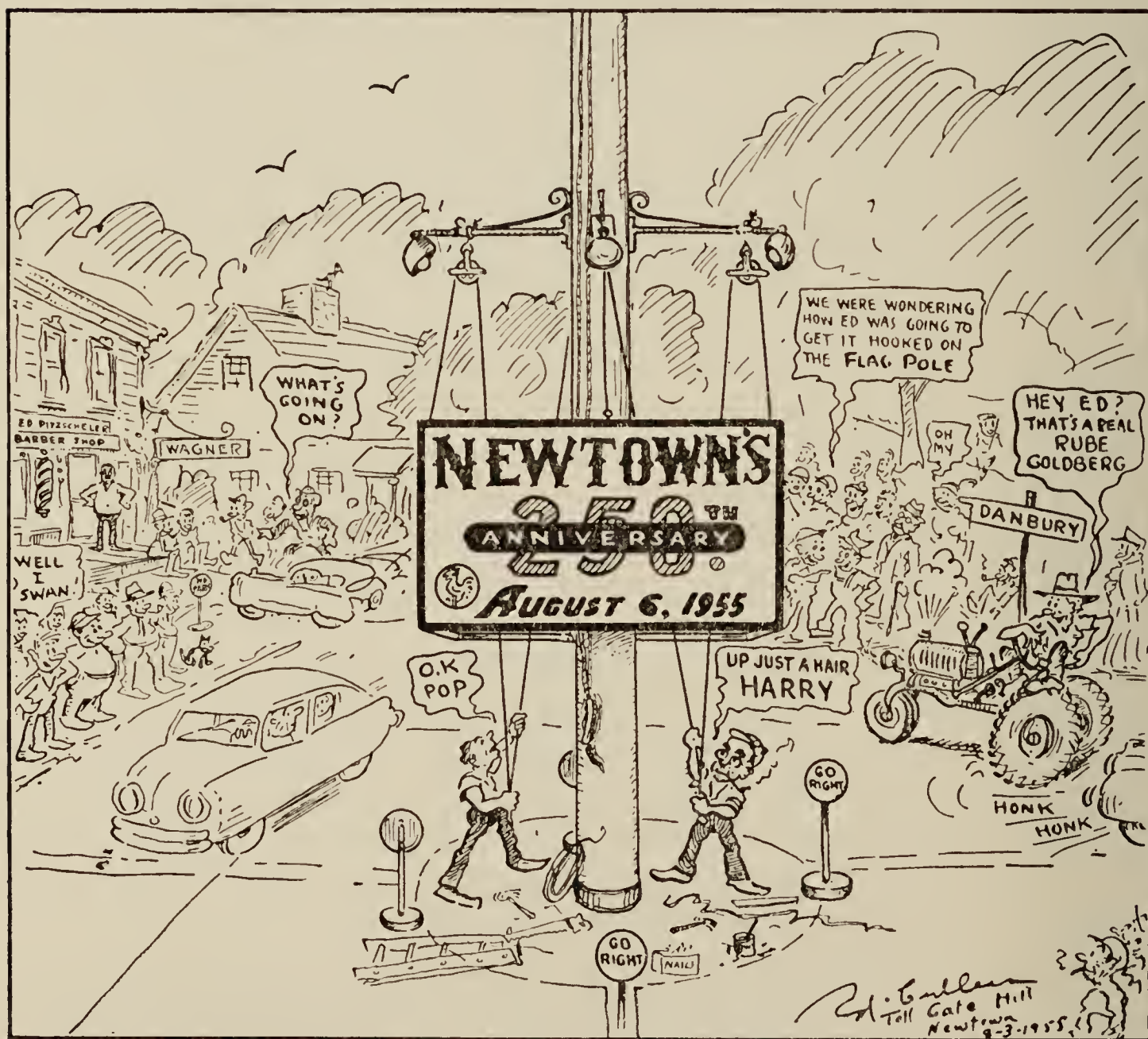
The Newtown Rotary Club's float was a mass of foliage, much appreciated by the horse following it, another Rotary entry. Driver of the old-time canopy wagon or surrey was Thomas Brophy, dressed in plug hat and proper livery, and chauffeuring his young guests who were the Misses Pat Daniells, Ann Friedman and Linda Walsh, themselves dressed up in the fancy garb of an earlier era. That the Rotary mechanized float had a habit of stalling occasionally, due to the heat, provided entertainment for the spectators, for the horse, attracted by a dinner of fresh greens ahead of him, kept pace and munched leaves and branches from one end of the parade route to the other. Dr. John P. Miller, Jr.'s beautiful White Steamer followed, emitting suspicious hisses from time to time as though it might bring the parade to an end with one terrific explosion. The composure of the antique car's occupants was such as to allay fears, however, and the handsome vehicle cruised along smoothly, without the noxious gases of the gasoline combustion engine clouding its wake. A handsome antique Cadillac, another Dr. Miller property, followed.

The Senior Girl Scouts of Newtown rode on a float provided by the Plastic Molding Company, and Henry Carlson drove the dual-control car his Liberty Garage provides the Newtown High School for its student drivers' course. The Newtown Lions Club was represented by a large float with many persons in Colonial costume sharing their forest background with a number of Redskins,



depicting the town's purchase from the Indians. Music was provided by the next unit, the Old Bethel Ancient Drum Corps, founded in 1883. Then came marching units of the Dodgingtown Volunteer Fire Company and the Auxiliary, in uniform, followed by the company's two pieces of equipment.

Lovell's Farm Equipment had a number of spanking-new tractors in the parade, ranging in size from the smallest to the largest, with the latter pulling a trailer on which there rode a bright red toy tractor, the envy of every boy along the line of march. Newtown Boy Scout Troop 70 had constructed a covered wagon and pulled by a Jeep with members of the troop riding against a banner that proclaimed them to be "Pioneers of the Future". The Scouts were followed by two of their members, the Tomlinson brothers, on horseback. To conclude this portion of the parade, two carloads of Newtown realtors brought up the rear of division number two.



Cartoonist Ed Cullen, of Toll Gate Hill, depicts in his usual entertaining fashion, the difficulties which he encountered in placing the anniversary "collar" banner on Newtown's flagpole.



## Division Three

Colors of the Fairfield Fire Department, together with the fire-fighters, equipment and their drum corps headed the third and final division of the parade, providing music for themselves and the following units, members of the Sandy Hook Volunteer Fire Company and Auxiliary. The Sandy Hook fire truck was followed by an old delivery cart of the S. Curtis & Son Company, a horse-drawn wagon of a bygone day, with the occupants tossing out sample boxes containing balloons. The legend imprinted on each of the boxes commemorated both the town's anniversary and the company's, with a reproduction of the celebration's trademark, the Congregational rooster, printed in red. Pohtatuck Grange had a large float with many members taking part in an old-time square dance, spinning partners to the fiddling of Harry Weller. The local float was followed by the Germantown Hose Company Drum Corps of Danbury. The Hawleyville Volunteer Fire Company was represented by both marchers and equipment.

An unusual float was that of Hiram Lodge, A.F. and A.M. and Hiram Chapter No. 1, R.A.M. of Sandy Hook, which for probably the first time made use of the emblems and furniture outside the Masonic Temple itself. Seated at the rear of the float, which was mounted on one of Bryant C. Edgerton's huge trailers, was C. Henry Johnson of Johnson Drive, Sandy Hook, a Mason who has held every chair in the local lodge and chapter and who is an officer at the Grand Chapter, State of Connecticut. Next came Town Players' clever medicine show wagon, an old-time snake-oil promoter extolling the merits of his elixers from the rear platform. Drawn by a team driven by Charles Ferris, Jr., with Deanie Hamburg dressed as one of the attractions of the show on the seat beside him, the wagon had its authentic musicians, Joe Ozanne and his gang, plus the fake doctor played to perfection by Addison M. Metcalf. Fredericka House of Sandy Hook, the day camp operated by the First Presbyterian Church of New York City for girls coming from the congested areas of the big city, was represented by both marchers and a float. Meriden's famed Washington Park Drum Corps was next, followed by the Newtown Lumber Company float, peopled by realistic-looking Indians, but Indians of a somewhat passive and good-humored nature who distributed lollipops with a free hand to all children in sight. Castro Convertibles of Danbury had a papier mache gondola skimming papier mache waves.

Shady Rest, Sandy Hook, entered a float depicting the joys of living along the Housatonic, with residents surrounding a row boat drawn up on the shore. The Lathrop School of Dance was represented by Mack and Virginia driving their convertible, the car loaded with young pupils, stars of next year's Starlight Revue. Following was another convertible driven by George W. Northrop, with his daughter Virginia—Ginger Northrop—Queen of the Barnum Festival last year, and singer on her own radio show over WLAD, Danbury, this year in the show, "A Letter From Ginger". The Brookfield Drum and Bugle Corps followed.

The United Fire Company of Botsford had its bright modern engine in the



lead, but it took equal pride in the second piece of equipment, its home-made tanker, completed in time to join ranks with the town's fire-fighting equipment. There followed a horsewoman on a beautiful steed, young Jennifer Mielziner, dressed as Rochambeau, the French general. A Plastic Molding Company truck had in tow one of the very earliest old-time rural mail delivery wagons. And Kenneth Shaw, driving one of his own trucks, brought along the symbol of this country's independence, the Liberty Bell.

Bringing back memories of another era in Newtown was a yoke of oxen driven by Donald Ferris, pulling an old-fashioned ox cart carrying several boys and girls in costume, while a team of young steers drawing a small cart was driven by William Ferris, Jr. Horsemen and horsewomen in colorful regalia from the Flying W. Ranch, Hanover District, brought up the rear of the nearly hour-long parade, with the car of the Newtown Visiting Nurse Association adding finis to a spectacular performance.

## Reviews Parade

The parade traversed the length of Main Street as far south as the entrance to Fairfield State Hospital, then swung up Queen Street, past the reviewing stand at Queen and Glover Avenue, with marching units disbanding at Newtown High School. Motorized units and floats continued on to Sandy Hook Center. Governor Ribicoff and party left the parade at the reviewing stand where they took up their positions to witness the spectacle as it passed in review.

Later in the day, winners were announced in the two categories vying for honors, floats and marching units. In the first, the Platt Lumber Yard took top honors with its Mt. Vernon float; Newtown Lions Club was second, and Southbury Training School third. Marching units, the Newtown Hook and Ladder Company No. 1, first; Fredericka House, Sandy Hook, second; Dodgingtown Volunteer Fire Company, third.

## The Committee

Responsible for the careful planning and engineering that went into the major production on Saturday was a committee headed by:

James Brunot and Albert H. Nichols, co-chairmen

Robert T. Gorton

Lee W. Glover

Edward E. Knapp

Dr. John P. Miller

Ernest F. Morgan

Robert F. Reiner

Bert Sheldon

Top aide for the anniversary parade was Robert Reiner, who served in a number of capacities but was most helpful at the scene of the reviewing stand



where, operating from a sound truck, he was able to announce to the Governor, officials and judges the identity of units as they approached. Other aides were Lee Glover, Joe Wupperfeld, Ed Casey, and Leo Carbonneau.

To the committee especially, and to all the organizations and individuals who cooperated so wholeheartedly, Newtown owes a debt of gratitude. They put on a splendid show, one that is very likely to stand as the best to date. The generation of the year 2,005 will have to start its planning early to do better.

## **MEMBERS (1955) OF THE SANDY HOOK FIFE, DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS**

Eilene Wright, Majorette  
Kathy Kanouse, Twirler

### **Fifers**

Joan Bresson  
Elizabeth Colaer  
Patricia Griffith  
Anita Hutz  
Jeanette Keating  
Martha Rohleder  
Evelyn Weber

### **Buglers**

Alan Carbonneau  
Edward Carroll  
Caroline Hibbard  
Joy Powell  
Ann Shaw  
Cheryl Smith  
Richard Sperling

### **Drums**

Charles Dinkler  
Lorraine Keating  
Buddy McMahon  
Ronald Sienko  
Marcella Wagner  
Emelda Walker



## Policing

Lieutenant Albert Rivers, Commandant of the Ridgefield Barracks of the State Police, who had attended one of the meetings of the Executive Committee, provided ample police arrangements for the parade, the park dedication, and the dance. Under the direction of Sergeant Walter Abel, a corps of regular and auxiliary State Police directed traffic and furnished security during the parade and park ceremonies. At the dance Sergeant Walter Foley was in charge. For this excellent service a letter of thanks and commendation was sent by the Chairman to the State Police, and was acknowledged by Commissioner John C. Kelly.

Four Town Constables also volunteered their services during the day. They were: Hiram Hanlon, Alfred J. Karcheski, John Qubick, and Louis J. Terpening.

## VII. THE DECORATIONS

Newtown was gaily decorated for the anniversary celebration. The subcommittee on decorations had arranged with one firm, Columbia Decorating, Inc. of New Haven, to furnish the necessary service, and its manager, Joseph Meola, was busy putting up red, white, and blue bunting on commercial buildings, homes, and public edifices for two weeks prior to August 6th.

Large signs prepared by E. J. Cullen were installed on the Liberty Flag Pole at Main Street and Church Hill Roads, the Town Hall, the Sandy Hook Post Office, and at all the principal entrances to the town. An interesting cartoon was drawn by Mr. Cullen for the local newspapers.

Although many houses were tastefully decorated in honor of Newtown's 250th anniversary, none recaptured the charm of our early days so completely as the delightful display in the yard of Mrs. Albert W. Peck on Main Street. It won for her the first prize in the category of home decoration.

Just as the plans for the celebration itself grew from modest beginnings, so Mrs. Peck's contribution to the gayety of the day also grew from a less elaborate outline. She consulted Frank Mack of Hattertown Road, who has been responsible for many scenic successes, and from their discussion came the decision to portray the little school which dates from 1733, and now is an integral part of Mrs. Peck's home.

For 190 years the building served the Town of Newtown well, for a short time as the Town House, as it was called, and then through the long years—long to the pupils, no doubt—as the Middle District School. Since it was a school as late as 1923, there are many citizens of Newtown here today who were pupils in this historic building.



Mr. Mack, in giving a humorous turn to his creation, peopled the school yard with some of the pupils who can remember when, theoretically, they crept, like snails, unwillingly to school. If you look at the photograph of the scene you will see one who is not creeping. That one is young Paul Smith, literally on the run, who evidently fears that he will be late. And there is Earle Smith coming with an apple for teacher. At this early age by this tribute to authority he revealed that he would be a lawyer.

Others who are shown in all the joyousness of childhood are Walter Glover, George Canfield, Johnnie Ray, Mabel Morris, Georgie Northrop, and Alice Houlihan. And of course there had to be the teacher, Miss Catherine Murphy.

### **The Committee**

Responsible for the decorations was the following committee:

Arthur H. Christie, Chairman

Mrs. Edward J. Coleman

Edward J. Cullen

James B. Forbes

Mrs. William F. Green

Harold E. Harvey

Frank Mack

Mrs. Albert W. Peck

## **VIII. THE DEDICATION OF THE PARK**

One of the projects close to the heart of First Selectman A. Fenn Dickinson was the establishment of a suitable town park. Through the generosity of Mr. Bertram A. Stroock of the Dodgingtown District a sum of \$50,000 was made available for this purpose. A town committee was appointed and after due consideration recommended the purchase of 22 acres between Elm Drive and Brushy Hill and Deep Brook Roads, west of the Newtown Country Club. The acquisition of this property was ratified at a town meeting, and title to it was taken on July 5, 1955.

After the unfortunate death of Mr. Dickinson on May 17th, the Park Commission voted to name the new park in his honor and to dedicate it on August 6th in connection with the anniversary celebration.

When the parade had been completed that morning, Governor Ribicoff and other distinguished persons were the guests of the Executive Committee at luncheon at the Hawley Manor on Main Street. Following the luncheon, the official party proceeded to the new park, escorted by Sergeant Walter Abel of



the State Police, and arriving promptly at 2 p.m., the scheduled time. An estimated 500 persons had assembled in the 90 degree heat to attend the ceremonies.

Among the special guests on this occasion were Mrs. A. Fenn Dickinson and her two children, Doris ("De De") and Edwin Fenn ("Happy"); Mr. Dickinson's mother, Mrs. Harry Godfrey; his sister, Mrs. Floyd Forcier; First Selectman Louis Anderson of Brookfield and Mrs. Anderson; Selectmen Anthony Amaral and Edward E. Knapp of Newtown; Dr. Russell F. Strasburger, Warden of the Borough of Newtown; and members of the Newtown Park Commission.

Three new entrances to the park had been constructed by a town crew working under the direction of Howard A. Beardsley, the grounds had been mowed and cleared, the approaching roads repaired, a flag pole erected, and a speaker's stand installed, but otherwise the park was in its original state. Parking for visitors was provided in an adjacent meadow owned by Anthony Amaral, and was directed by members of the Explorer Scouts, led by Rev. Stuart Haskins.

The ceremonies, presided over by the Chairman, Colonel James A. Tobey, began with the playing of our national anthem and the raising of the American flag by a color guard of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 308 of Newtown. Members of the color guard were Commander Ernest F. Morgan, Joseph Hanlon, John Plouffe, Thomas Cassidy, Raymond Eaton, and Michael Lucas.

The invocation was then given by the Reverend Father Walter R. Conroy of St. Rose Roman Catholic Church, a church which will be observing its own centennial in a few years, since it was established in Newtown in 1858. At the Bicentennial in 1905 the invocation also had been given by the pastor of this church, the Reverend Father Patrick Fox.

State Representative Sarah Frances Curtis (Mrs. Nelson G. Curtis) next awarded the school essay prize to Faith Brown, and announced the winners of prizes for marching units and floats in the morning parade.

Bertram A. Stroock, temporary chairman of the Park Commission, and donor of the park itself, was then called upon, and made the following remarks:

### **ADDRESS OF MR. STROOCK**

Governor Ribicoff, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Dickinson, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen:

It is gratifying to see your interest in the new park and it will be the endeavor of the Park Commission to try to justify your hopes. I think it fitting that a brief account be given of what has taken place to date.

First, after a great deal of investigation, this property—about 22 acres—has been acquired. In addition, there are 1-7/10 acres which I regret to say have been retained by the former owner, the only consolation being that we do have some sort of a future option on this piece, which is so importantly located.



Boundary and topographical surveys prepared by Joseph Bennett, who donated his personal services, have been completed. The National Recreation Association, a non-profit, highly respected and efficient organization, has been engaged by the Park Commission to make a complete master plan for the development of the park.

The Committee believes that no work should be started until a comprehensive and detailed plan has been made which will guide the development of the park. This should avoid mistakes and pitfalls and result in better recreational facilities for Newtown. It is my personal hope that Newtown will follow this same procedure and elect a Planning Commission so that the growth of the town can also be directed and planned along lines most beneficial to the community.

Within the next four to six weeks we hope to receive the master plan of the Park from the Recreation Association. The Commission will then study the layout and make their own decisions. Finances of course will determine how far the work can proceed.

I am most thankful that Governor Ribicoff has come to visit with us today to dedicate the park to Slim Dickinson, whose very heart was in this work, particularly because of its possible benefits to youth. I know you will be glad to learn that we have received hundreds of letters honoring Slim's memory with contributions to the park, now totaling almost \$2,000. Even today gifts continue to come in and both Mrs. Dickinson and the Park Commission would like to express deep appreciation for this heart warming tribute to Slim.

We have recently received gifts for the park to honor the memory of other people who have passed on.

As Temporary Chairman, I would like to thank the members of the Park Commission, Mrs. William Walsh, Jr., George Jackson, Dick Winship, Rudy Berkemann and Dr. Egee—and the advisory members, Mr. Howard Beardsley and Mr. Art Christie, for the time, effort and interest they have given. I would also like to thank the many other people who have in one form or another assisted and contributed to this endeavor.

In conclusion, the Park Commission would like the Governor to know how deeply we appreciate his being with us today to honor the memory of our friend and First Selectman, A. Fenn Dickinson.

\* \* \* \*

In introducing Governor Abraham Ribicoff, the Chairman pointed out that he was a native of New Britain, Connecticut, but had lived most of his life in Hartford, where he had served with distinction as a local judge, as a member of the State Legislature, and as a Representative in the Congress of the United States, before his election as Governor in 1954.

Governor Ribicoff, who spoke extemporaneously and eloquently without notes, paid tribute to "Slim" Dickinson, as he was known affectionately to his many friends, as a man whose greatest qualities were compassion, love, and sympathy for his fellow men.



He eulogized the first selectman for his personal qualities, pride in and love of Newtown, and political support in last fall's state election. That Mr. Dickinson, a Democrat, was one of the first active supporters of Ribicoff for governor, was revealed as the state executive told of a visit to his office in Hartford by the Newtown official in February, 1954, to announce his support if Ribicoff chose to run. Slim was the first man who spoke to me formally of running for governor," Gov. Ribicoff said.

Gov. Ribicoff pointed to the three-time first selectman's strength in a Republican town as "a great tribute to qualities which transcended political considerations. You could do yourselves no greater honor than to name the park for Slim," he said.

The natural surroundings of the park are an appropriate memorial to "a natural, self-effacing man who was without pose", the governor said. "To the people of Newtown, I salute your 250 years. May the name of Slim be bright over the years as the people of the town enjoy the park," he concluded.

### **Unveils Plaque**

The governor's address was followed by the unveiling of a memorial bronze plaque by Howard A. Beardsley, road foreman under First Selectman Dickinson and present town supervisor of roads. The plaque, set in a granite boulder at the center of the park, bears the following inscription:

This Park Is Dedicated  
To The Memory Of  
A. FENN DICKINSON  
First Selectman  
Of The Town Of Newtown  
1949-55  
by  
Hon. Abraham A. Ribicoff  
Governor of Connecticut  
August 6, 1955

In closing the ceremonies, Chairman Tobey stated, "Here among these stately, fragrant pines, here on these rolling meadows of our beloved Newtown, we have today made our contribution to history."

The exercises closed with the benediction by the Reverend Paul A. Cullens of the Newtown Congregational Church.

### **The Committee**

The subcommittee in charge of the arrangements at the park included the following:

Richard S. Winship, Chairman  
Howard A. Beardsley  
Miles Harris  
Arthur J. Smith



## IX. THE LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL GAMES

The Newtown Little League put on a post-season double-header Saturday afternoon, August 6, at Taylor Field as part of the activities for the celebration of the town's 250th anniversary. With a crowd of over 200 watching, the third-place Yankees trounced the Red Sox, the league's cellar occupants, 17-0 in the opening game, while the Dodgers beat the league-leading Giants, 9-8 in the rousing finale. Both games went four innings.

The Yankees went to work on the Red Sox, scoring eight runs in the first inning and four more in the second, Ronnie Beardsley, Don Steisel and Tommy Gann shared the pitching assignment for the Yankees, each keeping the Red Sox under control.

The Giants started out with one run in the first, and the Dodgers came back to take the lead with two runs as Dan Dayton and Gary Hoyt singled and Jim Tenney drove them home with a double. The Giants tied the score at 2—all in the second, and added another in the third to take the lead. Then the Dodgers came through with a four-run rally in the third on two walks, a hit batter, a single by Hansen and a double by Chipper Hull.

The league-leaders came back strong in the fourth with three singles and doubles by Sperling and Stickles as they scored five runs to run the count to 8-6. Stickles who relieved Cliff Beardsley in the third, walked the first three batters in the last half of the fourth. After Hansen had grounded out, Hull popped a weak fly to second and Tenney was doubled off third, apparently ending the game. But Umpire John Plouffe called the ball dead and the batter out on an infield fly ruling, starting the best rhubarb of the day as the Giants protested the decision.

When play was resumed, Tomlinson smacked a single to send Tenney and Walsh home with the tying and winning runs. Chipper Hull, who relieved Bill Christie in the fourth inning with two out, received credit for the victory.

## X. THE BLOCK DANCE

Climaxing the day-long 250th anniversary celebration last Saturday, a tremendous block dance attended by hundreds of townspeople and their guests, took place at the Newtown Shopping Center, Queen Street, from 8:30 until 1 o'clock in the morning. Even a spate of rain and the threat of a downpour could little dampen the spirits of the crowd which packed the plaza and enjoyed itself immensely. Spectators thinned, it is true, but the dancers remained on until the musicians packed up their instruments and called it a day.

As well as the good time enjoyed by all, which was still a topic of conversation the following week, people could hardly fail to be impressed with the manner in which the big event was handled. Though crowded from an early hour, there was no confusion. Parking was expedited by State Police, town constables and auxiliary police and the Holian-Knibloe lot on Queen Street



provided ample facilities for the purpose. It was a crowd, one of the biggest in Newtown's recent history, but it was an orderly crowd, out to have an evening's fun. There was no age limit, youngsters in arms, teen-agers, and oldtimers entering into the spirit of the occasion.

Festooned with lights and set off from the rest of the plaza area at the north end of the shopping center building, the "dance floor" was the hardtop of the parking stand, with two orchestras providing the music. One, Eddie Wittstein and his ten-piece dance band from New Haven, played popular ball-room numbers, alternating with George Barba's six-piece square dance band from Branford. When one set finished, the other took over, the music of both reported to be excellent and extremely danceable.

As an added attraction to the evening's entertainment, the committee provided two singers, the first Dolores Ann Duda of Stratford, whose parents were former residents of Newtown. This 11-year-old singer has poise, personality as well as voice, and that she will go far in the entertainment profession was the opinion of all who heard her on Saturday night. She asked her listeners if they wanted more and they did. Only her own good sense and the scheduling of the balance of the program, kept the block dancers from calling her back even more. Later, after 10:30, Ginger Northrop, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Northrop of Meadow Road, delighted her audience by singing several numbers. Ginger, Queen of last year's Barnum Festival in Bridgeport, is gaining a reputation as an entertainer in the area through her regularly scheduled program over WLAD, Danbury. The 15-minute program is broadcast every Saturday at 10:45 a.m. and is called "A Letter From Ginger" which features a script written by herself.

Throughout festivities at the shopping center refreshments were made available by the auxiliaries of the Newtown volunteer fire companies. They did a brisk business in soda, hot dogs and hamburgers, a sellout business, actually, so that latecomers had to take their sizzling hot dogs with all the trimmings but without buns. Somehow the quantity of meat and the number of buns didn't come out right, but no one seemed to mind. One gentleman stepped up to the counter and ordered a dozen hot dogs—without buns—to take home. One of the most talked-of affairs of the entire celebration on August 6, the block dance hit an all-time high for being a well thought-out and enjoyable community entertainment.

### **The Committee**

The subcommittee responsible for the success of the affair was headed by:

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Carruth, chairmen  
Mr. and Mrs. David Cassidy  
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Clear  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Eddy  
Mr. and Mrs. Mack Lathrop  
Mr. and Mrs. L. Edward Lovell



## **XI. THE NEWTOWN BEE'S SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT**

As its contribution to the anniversary celebration the Newtown Bee published a special six page supplement, which was inserted with its regular weekly issue of August 5, 1955, and was also distributed along the route of the parade and at the park dedication. This special supplement was, in fact, a valuable souvenir program of the various events against their historic background.

This special supplement was in tabloid size, its six pages being profusely illustrated with scenes from Newtown past and present. It gave a complete schedule of the anniversary events, listed the various committees, recounted the early history of Newtown, and contained much other valuable information. A particularly interesting feature was a poem entitled, "Mauquash, Massumpas and Nannawauk", written in the meter of Longfellow's Hiawatha, and signed "HKT", none other than Harry King Tootle, of Dingle Brook Lane.

Contributors to this special supplement, in addition to Mr. Tootle, included Mrs. Joseph Low and James A. Tobey of the committee, and Paul S. Smith, Zaner Faust, and Edward Lang of the Bee staff.

The first issue of the Newtown Bee was issued on June 27, 1877. The paper was taken over by Allison P. Smith and Arthur J. Smith in 1892, and is now edited by Paul S. Smith, who joined the Bee in 1932 and became its editor in 1934. This weekly newspaper has won many awards for excellence, and everyone agrees that it is one of the best of its type in the United States.

## **XII. PUBLICITY**

Newtown's 250th anniversary received literally reams of publicity in the newspapers, not only because there was an exceptionally able subcommittee on publicity, but because what Newtown was doing was newsworthy. Items and articles appeared in every weekly issue of the Bee from May through August. The local correspondent of the Danbury News Times and the Bridgeport Telegram and Post, Judge Edward S. Pitzschler, saw to it that there was ample coverage in these dailies.

Among other gratifying publicity items was a full column about Newtown, signed by David Anderson, in the New York Times for Sunday, July 31. This was arranged by Harry King Tootle, a former member of the Times staff. The Bridgeport Post for Sunday, August 7, 1955 had a complete page of photo-



graphs of the Newtown celebration. Many other newspapers in Connecticut and New York likewise ran items and editorials on Newtown's celebration.

### **The Committee**

Members of the subcommittee on publicity were:

Harry King Tootle, Chairman

Robert Hallock

Albert S. Knapp

Mrs. Joseph Low

Paul D. Webb

## **XIII. THE NEW BOOK ON NEWTOWN**

The 107-page book entitled, "Newtown, Past and Present", was not sponsored by the anniversary committee, but was prepared by a committee of the Newtown League of Women Voters, and issued on the day of the celebration. It is best described in the review by Harry King Tootle, which appeared in the Special Supplement to the Newtown Bee. Here is what Mr. Tootle wrote:

Those who watch with discerning eyes the unfolding of democratic processes in this country have long recognized the non-partisan zeal for better government of the League of Women Voters. Its programs for social and political reforms are admirable, and are exerting an influence for good in city, state and national government. Its chief goal is the education of women politically in order that they may cast their ballots intelligently.

The League of Women Voters of Newtown not only has been active in pursuing national politics, but it has also embarked on local projects which have successfully served Newtown and added to League stature. Notable as a League endeavor was the publishing three years ago of a revised map of Newtown. A committee worked diligently to see that all roads were properly named and classified and all districts outlined. Now the League has to its credit an even greater achievement—the publication this month of "Newtown, Connecticut."

Here is a book which should be read and kept for reference in every Newtown home. It should be sent to the sons and daughters who have moved away, to justify the pride in their old home which they carry with them wherever they go.

Here is a moving chronicle of the little settlement which grew and thrived through Colonial days, thrived far more with its rich farm lands and its varied industries under the infant republic, accepted the age of mechanization and



made it work, and now faces the future with confidence born of past accomplishments. All this is what the book is about.

"Newtown, Connecticut" was planned by the League while under the leadership of Mrs. Edmund E. Neary. Now it is published in the administration of Mrs. Norman Fedde. All members of the League publication committee worked tirelessly, each contributing to the success of the book; yet the chairman of the group, Mrs. Jerome P. Jackson, must be singled out before all others and highly commended. To the task she brought not only organizational skill, but also long hours and days of research to give the book substance and authority. She journeyed over the state, frequently to Stratford and New Haven to consult source material. Here at home she completed her data and at the same time coordinated the activities of her associates.

Listing the names of the members of the publication committee is the same as listing the names of leading contributors. Especial mention should be made of Mrs. Bradley Randall who put together the first section of the book, writing with literary charm and a proper sense of proportion. It is called "The Past." For most readers here is the part of the book which has the most fascination.

"The Past" tells of the simple living of God-fearing people who accepted hardships without bitterness and always strove to make life better for themselves and their children. Let Newtown parents read this story of our past to their children, dwelling upon the homely virtues of these pioneers, so that the memory of their useful lives will not go unhonored or unsung in the years to come.

The second section of the book, "The Present," has not the romance of "The Past," except for those who recognize that the complexity of modern life provides a new type of romance. There is no last frontier today, and this book reveals that there are still frontiers in Newtown.

When the proposed book was under discussion last February, it was not so comprehensive a work as it has become. Giving consideration to the 250th anniversary of the founding of the town, it was decided to enlarge the section devoted to its history, and publish it in time for the celebration. It makes a fine souvenir of the occasion. The work has been done so well that as a short account of Newtown's past and present, it may well be regarded as definitive.

Newtown is rich in the number of its citizens whose standing in the arts goes far beyond our borders and sometimes brings international fame. In no field is it richer than in its artists. Happily, they have contributed generously to help make "Newtown, Connecticut" a volume which in time should be a collector's item. One who does not pause over each illustration is missing some of the flavor of the book. The artists are: Robert Hallock, who drew the cover (he also drew the rooster which adorns the anniversary poster), John Angel, Mrs. Nina Blake, Herman deVries, Norman Fedde, Mrs. Katherine S. Keeler, Joel King, Joseph Low, Henry Schnakenberg, J. Norton Stewart, Eberhard von Jarochofski, Paul D. Webb, and Harrie Wood.

As is befitting such a volume, type, presswork and binding attest the care taken by the designer and printer. The credit for the physical appearance of the book goes to a son of Newtown, Daniel C. Honan, president of the Walker-



Rackliff Company, printers, New Haven, Conn. He personally took charge of all the details of the work, which was done by the Walker-Rackliff Co.

Credit for "Newtown, Connecticut" goes to the following members of the publication committee:

Mrs. Jerome P. Jackson, Chairman  
Mrs. Bradley Randall  
Mrs. James Brunot  
Mrs. Raymond L. Hall  
Mrs. M. Fridolf Jacobson  
Mrs. Frank L. Johnson  
Mrs. William H. Knox  
Mrs. Malcolm R. McClintock  
Mrs. Frank C. McGlinchy

Let Newtown salute them!

#### XIV. FIFTY YEARS LATER

Listen, my children, and you shall hear  
Of our Two Hundred and Fiftieth Year—  
On August 6th, Nineteen Fifty-Five  
Hardly a man is now alive  
Who remembers that famous Day and Year.

First, Paul S. Smith of the Newtown Bee  
Dug through his files and said that we  
Should celebrate, ere the summer ends,  
In a fitting manner, with neighbors and friends  
The purchase of lands from the Pootatucks  
And how they trimmed those noble bucks  
By giving them "blankets, fur coats and collars  
And ruffelly shirts", but not any dollars,  
We got 48 square miles of land  
Now stretching around us on every hand.

Soon Colonel James Tobey summoned his crew  
And gave us plenty of work to do  
While the Finance Committee raised the dough  
Always required to run a show.  
And Mister James Brunot of Scrabble fame  
Said it would really be a shame  
Not to have a parade, both lively and funny,  
For dough after all is "only money".



So he and Al Nichols, working early and late  
Hired thirteen fine Bands from all over the State.  
We searched for a word that means “Two-fifty”  
Something stylish, fancy and nifty  
Like “Sequi-centennial” or Ter-centenary”  
But Gilbert Highet, the famous linguist,  
Advised us to stick to basic English.  
The League of Women wrote the story  
Of Newtown’s Past and Present Glory,  
A Labor of Love, which will surely last  
While we cherish the History of the Past.  
And Harry King Tootle of Dingle Brook Lane  
Was asked to take up his pen again  
(He used to be with the New York Times  
And knew how to make up excellent rhymes)  
He wrote of three Chiefs of the Pootatuck Tribe  
In a kind of blank-verse that is hard to describe.

The rooster on the Meeting House steeple  
Got a coating of gold which dazzled the people  
Who stared at him from the ground below  
Asking themselves why he didn’t crow.  
And Lincoln B. Mitchell showed six old houses  
In which our ancestors lived with their spouses  
And managed to have a happy life  
Without all the gadgets, now so rife.  
Then the Movie Theatre gave a show  
Free to all who wanted to know  
How Sousa’s Marches were played by Bands  
In this and many other lands.

At last came the day of the Big Parade,  
The thermometer ninety degrees in the shade,  
With banners and floats on every hand  
All led by Sandy Hook’s own Band.  
And the Governor at Dickinson Park  
Honored the man who had won renown  
As First Selectman of Our Town.  
Then Little League games in the afternoon  
With an open-air dance by the light of the moon,  
And the Day was over, all too soon.



And that is how, my children dear  
We observed that famous Day and Year  
May all of us who are still alive  
Do equally well in Two Thousand-Five.

—H. W. L., III  
Newtown, Connecticut  
July 4, 2005

This poem appeared in the Newtown Bee for August 26, 1955. The author, who coyly signed himself H. W. L. III (For Henry W. Longfellow, III) was a prominent local resident, Mr. James B. Forbes of Wendover Road.

## **XV. BUDGET, FINANCE, AND CONTRIBUTORS**

Since the Town of Newtown had no funds to pay the expenses of the anniversary celebration, the Executive Committee set a modest budget of \$2500.00, and decided to raise this money by public subscription, both from individual contributors and business firms.

Early in June the Finance subcommittee sent a printed form letter to 1300 Newtown residents asking for contributions, while members of this committee personally canvassed all business firms in town. The response was most gratifying, and the budget was oversubscribed by more than \$1000. The 94 business firms which contributed were listed in advertisements occupying a full page in the Newtown Bee for July 15th, and a two-thirds page on July 22nd.

### **The Committee**

Members of the subcommittee on Finance which achieved these results were:

Nelson G. Curtis, Chairman  
Anthony Amaral  
Mrs. Felix E. Baridon  
Richard F. Burdett  
Paul R. Cashman  
Nelson B. Denny  
Mrs. Frederick M. Herring  
Frank L. Johnson  
Allen Northey Jones  
Edward E. Knapp  
Mrs. Edmund E. Neary  
Herman W. Parker



## List of Contributors

### A. Business

Mrs. Anderson's Foods	Lathrop School of Dance
Ann and Milt's Gas Station	La Ronda
Amaral's Service Station	Liberty Garage
Archie's Haircutting Shop	Lovell's Garage
Bassett's Liquor Store	Lu Wayne's
Berkshire Filling Station	Mac's Hotel
Brick Store	Maryland Restaurant
Burtch's Greenhouse	McKenzie Engineering Company
Cantone's Restaurant	Lynn Mathewson
Arthur Carmody Agency	E. Miller
Cashman Drug Company	Mitchell Smelting & Refining Co.
Castle Inn	Newtown Associates
Center Package Store	Newtown Bee
Cianci Building	Newtown Cleaners
Charles Batchelder Company	Newtown Farm Supply
Coger Lumber Company	Newtown Inn
Connecticut National Bank	Newtown Insurance Service
Euclid R. Couture	Newtown Lumber Company
M. F. Crowe	Newtown Manufacturing Company
S. Curtis & Sons	Newtown Men and Boys Shop
Dairy Specialties	Newtown Music & Book Store
Designs For Better Living	Newtown Package Store
W. N. De Sherbinin Products	Newtown Paint & Hardware
Disbrow & Robins	Newtown Penny Saver
Dodgingtown Center Stores	Newtown Plumbing & Heating Co.
Dorothy D	Newtown Savings Bank
Fabric Fire Hose Company	Newtown Shopping Center
Flagpole Fountain	Newtown Toy Center
Edmund M. Foster	Newtown Tru Value
Gay's TV & Radio Service	Park Diner
Hawley Manor	The Pines
Heise Bourdon Tube Company	Platt's Lumber Yard
H. K. Hinkelmann	Plastic Molding Corp.
The Hobby Horse	Priscilla Shop
R. H. Holcomb	Production & Marketing Company
Housatonic Public Service Company	Raymond's Drive-In
House of Flowers and Crafts	Joseph Reiss, M.D.
Huntington General Store	Ren's Bakery
Hydraulic Equipment Company	Rudy's Shoe Store
Kennedy Store	Sandy Hook Gloves
Knapp & Meyers	Charles W. Scranton & Co.
Lands End Country Store	Southern New England Telephone Co.



Stickle's Service Station  
Stony Hill Inn  
Russell F. Strasburger, V.M.D.  
George M. Stuart  
Victor & Ricky

Village Esso Servicenter  
Village Store  
Nate Wagner  
Tannis M. Walker  
R. S. Watkins & Sons

## List of Contributors

### B. Individuals

George B. Adams  
Mrs. Julia D. Aiken  
American Legion Post 163  
John Angel  
Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Angell  
Mrs. Florence Angier  
Anonymous (3)  
Cameron V. Bailey  
Mrs. Felix Baridon  
Elsie Barton  
Rosalie D. Baxter  
Clifford A. Beardsley  
William C. Bechert  
G. Herbert Beers  
Wilhelmina Behrens  
Mr. and Mrs. Bruno Benziger  
Berkshire Garden Club  
Anna M. Betts  
S. L. Bickford  
Mrs. Henry Blackman\*  
Mr. and Mrs. Hastings Blake  
Ella B. Bounty  
Judge and Mrs. John Boyle  
Eleanor S. Briscoe  
Renwick M. Brown  
Mr. and Mrs. Albert S. Boyson  
James Brunot  
Mrs. Marguerite Budd  
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Budd  
Lawrence V. Burton  
Randolph H. Carpenter  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Carter  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Carruth  
James Cavanaugh  
Leon A. Chamberlain

Jane M. Chambers  
Helen Chalmers  
Flora E. Clark  
Mrs. Grace J. Clark  
Robert J. Clark  
Alberta M. Clinch  
Mrs. Henry Clow  
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Collet  
Mrs. Edward M. Conger  
Kyle S. Crichton  
Arthur Crowe  
Agnes R. Cullens  
Celeste Cummiskey  
Mrs. Bertha G. Curtis  
H. Gould Curtis  
Nelson G. Curtis  
Newton M. Curtis  
Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence Daum  
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas K. Davis  
Dorothy De Groat  
Samuel Deitsch  
Madeline F. Denton  
James E. Diamond  
Marshall B. Dierssen  
Sydney R. Dobbs  
Dodgingtown Fire Auxiliary  
Dodgingtown Vol. Fire Co.  
Elsie B. Downs  
Dr. J. Benton Egee  
J. Florence Eldredge  
Clifford Ettinger  
Robert D. Fairchild  
Mrs. Derby Farrington  
Frances H. Fedde  
Henry C. Ferrier



William G. H. Finch  
James B. Forbes  
Raymond Fosdick  
Mabel Gausmann  
Herman R. Geiger  
Mina C. Gilbert  
S. Curtis Glover  
Charles Goodsell  
Dr. William F. Green  
Mrs. Annie B. Halsey  
Mr. and Mrs. William Hanlon  
William A. Hanway  
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick L. Harris  
Dr. and Mrs. David E. Harrower  
Hawleyville Vol. Fire Dept.  
Joseph F. Hellauer  
John G. Herlihy  
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Herring  
Eileen Heyman  
Nan Holbrook  
Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Holcombe  
Mr. and Mrs. William Honan  
H. C. Honegger  
Mr. and Mrs. J. Edwin Hopkins  
Mary Alden Hopkins  
June M. Hotchkiss  
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Howson  
L. Marsden Hubbard  
H. C. Hubbell  
John A. Hubbell  
Margaret Huhtala  
Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Hunyadi  
Helen S. Hutchinson  
Emma Irwin  
Mary S. G. Jackson  
Mrs. M. Fridolf Jacobson  
Rosa Jandreau  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Jenkins  
Mr. and Mrs. Axel Jensen  
Herman Jarvis  
George Johanson  
Shirley M. Johns  
Elizabeth Beers Johnson  
Dr. Clifford G. Johnson  
Frank L. Johnson

F. Willard Johnson  
Mr. and Mrs. Irving Jones  
Marie Kaiser  
Austin Keane  
Mr. and Mrs. James Kelly  
Nannette Kelly  
Maude H. Kenny  
Edward E. Knapp  
Vern F. Knapp  
Karl Knaur  
Celia A. La Croix  
Mack Lathrop  
John C. Leavy  
Thurman Lee  
Mr. and Mrs. Carl A. LeGrow  
Mr. and Mrs. Isidore Levovsky  
Louis J. Lorenzo  
Mr. and Mrs. Leroy J. Lovejoy  
James A. Marin, Jr.  
Dr. Alex T. Martin  
Catherine P. Masback  
Lewis Mayers  
John J. McAvoy  
Caroline McCann  
Catherine McGraw  
Mr. and Mrs. George W. McGraw  
Dorothy S. McClintock  
Arthur E. McCollam  
William M. McKenzie  
George A. McLachlan  
Paul V. McNamara  
Sally McNeil  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Mends  
Mrs. Henry L. Messner  
Henriette Metcalf  
Mr. and Mrs. Orrin W. Mills  
Wallace N. Mitchell  
Michael Molinaro  
Harold Morgan  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. Morris  
Dr. and Mrs. Nicholas Moseley  
Mr. and Mrs. John Mulholland  
Mrs. Samuel C. Murphy  
Eva Blackman Naramore\*  
Edmund E. Neary



Edmund E. Neary  
 Newtown Hook and Ladder Co.  
 Newtown Homemakers  
 Newtown Mothers Club  
 Newtown Rotary Club  
 Abe Nezvesky  
 Mr. and Mrs. James B. Nichols  
 Marjorie W. Nichols  
 Mr. and Mrs. William J. Nichols  
 Marguerite A. Norris  
 Mr. and Mrs. James M. Osborne, Jr.  
 Order of the Eastern Star,  
     Mirah Chapter 113  
 Mrs. Albert Peck  
 Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Peck  
 Mary E. Peck  
 Florence A. Pease  
 Mrs. Robert M. Perry  
 Mrs. Karl Pittelkow  
 Mr. and Mrs. Edmund C. Platt, 2d  
 Pohtatuck Grange  
 Manus M. Rabbin  
 Eleanor V. Randall  
 Albert W. Rasmussen  
 Mr. and Mrs. Fredric Rees  
 William Remsen  
 Arthur W. Reynolds  
 Walter Reynolds  
 Guy Richardson  
 Dr. Henry Roger  
 J. J. Rosenbaum  
 Jack H. Rosenthal  
 Ryan Associates  
 Martin Sealander  
 R. C. Schleussner  
 Mary E. Sanford  
 John R. Sindlinger  
 Henry Schnakenberg  
 Evelyn Shepard

Winifred E. Sloane  
 Earle W. Smith  
 Mortimer B. Smith  
 Mr. and Mrs. Paul S. Smith  
 Frances Scudder Smith  
 Harold B. Stanford  
 Dr. and Mrs. Russell F. Strasburger  
 Mr. and Mrs. Ervin C. Stickles, Sr.  
 Dr. Richard Stephens  
 Anna Lord Strauss  
 Dorothy G. Swanberg  
 Joseph H. A. Symonds  
 Mr. and Mrs. Harrie Talbot  
 Dorothy Tapscott  
 Arthur Terry  
 Mr. and Mrs. Harry King Tootle  
 Lockwood Towne  
 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Treffs  
 Sophie Treadwell  
 Walter S. Trumbull  
 United Fire Co. (Botsford)  
 Louis Untermeyer  
 Betty Veltri  
 Veterans Foreign Wars Post 308  
 Mr. and Mrs. Nate Wagner  
 Mr. and Mrs. William H. Walsh  
 Mary H. Warner  
 Mr. and Mrs. L. Z. Whitbeck  
 A. J. Wicke  
 Carol M. Wilde  
 Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Wilder  
 Mr. and Mrs. S. Wirt Wiley  
 Matthew Winkle  
 Mrs. Benjamin Winchester  
 Max H. Wolff  
 Agnes N. Wood  
 John P. Woods  
 Mabel Wright  
 George A. Writer  
 Virginia M. P. Wynne

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\* In memory of Rev. Adam Blackman of Stratford (1639) and his descendants through John and Joseph Blackman of Newtown.



Receipts and Expenditures

A. Receipts

241 individual contributions .....	\$1981.00
94 business organizations .....	1560.00
235 tickets, historic house tour .....	352.50
refund on decorations .....	64.50
refund on refreshments .....	11.14
Total receipts	<u>\$3969.14</u>

B. Expenditures

1. The Parade

Music (13 bands) .....	\$1120.00
Public address system .....	58.33
Prizes (9) .....	100.00
Refreshments, marchers .....	36.00
Custodian, High School .....	5.00
	<u>\$1319.33</u>

2. The Dance

Orchestras (2) .....	420.00
Decorations .....	100.00
Public address system .....	58.33
Clean-up service .....	25.00
Electrical services .....	45.00
Refreshments for police .....	20.00
	<u>668.33</u>

3. The Park Dedication

Public address system .....	58.34
Repairs .....	30.00
Luncheon for Governor and other guests .....	48.30
	<u>136.64</u>

4. Exhibits

Printing .....	35.00
House tour .....	41.48
	<u>76.48</u>



5. Publicity	
200 posters .....	35.00
Postage .....	4.50
Photographs .....	13.00
	<hr/>
	52.50
6. Finance Committee	
Printing .....	44.75
Postage .....	39.00
Advertisements .....	146.40
	<hr/>
	230.15
7. Decorations	
12 signs .....	249.50
Prize .....	25.00
	<hr/>
	274.50
8. General expenses	
Printing .....	16.00
Postage .....	6.51
Insurance .....	87.50
Badges .....	33.44
Prize, school essay .....	18.75
Fire Department auxiliary .....	11.14
Souvenir book .....	875.00
Mailing, envelopes, etc. ....	60.00
	<hr/>
	1108.34
Total expenditures	
	\$3866.27

Note: The Executive Committee voted that any balance remaining after all expenses were paid would be devoted to some public project of benefit to all the citizens of Newtown.

It was also voted that copies of this Souvenir Book be furnished without charge to all persons and organizations who so generously contributed time, services, or money to the 250th Anniversary. Any remaining copies were to be turned over to the Cyrenius H. Booth Library in Newtown for sale at cost price, all proceeds to go to the Library.



















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